

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

*Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 19, with:*

---

FIG. 1 presents the general scenario of a transmitter 10 having N transmit antennas, for example 11-1, and 11-2, and a receiver 20 with 21-1, 21-2, ... 21-M receive antennas, in a frequency selective Rayleigh fading environment. The M receive antennas are coupled to equalizer/decoder 23, equalizer/decoder 23 is coupled to symbol-to-bits mapper 25, and mapper 25 is connected to an outer-code decoder 27 (if the signal transmitted by transmitter 10 is encoded with an outer-code encoder 12 – as shown in transmitter 10). The design and operation of equalizer/decoder, which may be implemented with a conventional digital signal processor, is the subject of this disclosure,

---